

# THE PARISH MESSENGER

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA - JUNE 1959



*Selkirk Lutheran Church, Selkirk, Manitoba*

## **WELCOME !**

*Selkirk Lutheran Church and its Pastor Rev. Ed. Day*

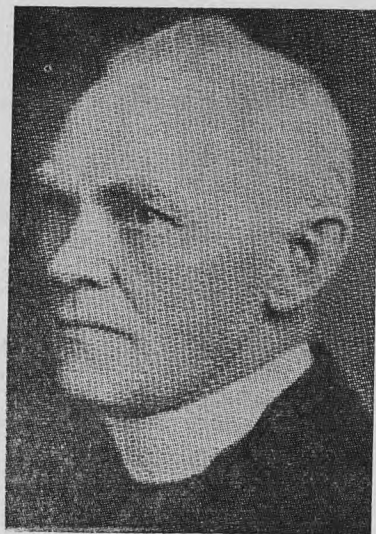
*Welcomes you to the*

*75th Annual Convention*

*of the Icelandic Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America*

*June 23rd to 26th, 1959*

## Dr. Runolfur Marteinsson



### Funeral Address

Delivered at First Lutheran Church  
Winnipeg, May 14, 1959

By Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, President  
Icelandic Synod

Let us now honor good men, and  
our fathers that begat us.

The Lord hath wrought great  
glory by them through his great  
power from the beginning . . .

Leaders of the people by their  
counsels and by their knowledge  
of learning meet for the people,  
wise and eloquent in their instruc-  
tions . . .

Wise men furnished with ability,  
living peaceably in their habita-  
tions.

All these were honoured in their  
generations, and were the glory of  
their times.

There be of them, that have left  
a name behind them, that their  
praises might be reported.

But these were merciful men,

whose righteousness hath not been  
forgotten.

With their seed shall continually  
remain a good inheritance, and  
their children are within the cove-  
nant.

Their bodies are buried in peace;  
but their name liveth for ever-  
more.

The people will tell of their wis-  
dom, and the congregation will  
shew forth their praise.

From the Apochryphal  
Book of Ecclesiasticus 44.

When I think of the long life of  
devoted Christian service of Dr.  
Runolfur Marteinsson, two pictures  
of his character and personality  
come immediately to my mind.  
(1) the first picture is of a vital man,  
alive and enthusiastic for God and  
the things of His Kingdom. The  
words of Paul flash through my  
mind in this mental picture of Dr.  
Marteinsson: these words to the  
Romans — "Be on fire with the  
Spirit," or as Moffat has translated  
it, "Maintain the spiritual glow."  
(Verid brennandi i andanum). My  
first memories of Dr. Marteinsson  
go back more than 25 years, and  
even then he was a man over 60  
years old. But he was alive and on  
fire with the spirit of God — alive  
with burning desire to serve the  
God he knew in Jesus Christ. When  
the great American preacher, Phil-  
lips Brooks died, one of his contem-  
poraries wrote about the "after-  
glow of a great life." Many of us  
feel that "afterglow" from the life  
of Sera Runolfur. Phillips Brooks  
was once asked for the secret of his  
life, and he wrote: "All experience  
comes to be more and more the

(Continued on Page 11)

## Treasurer's Report

### BENEVOLENCE RECEIPTS

	Apportionment	Receipts	% Received	L.W.A. Receipts
First Lutheran, Winnipeg	\$ 4,325.40	\$ 600.00	13.9	
Selkirk, Selkirk	2,007.18			
Gimli, Gimli	1,287.90	150.00	11.6	\$ 10.00
Icelandic, Vancouver	1,287.90			85.25
Braethra, Riverton	1,166.40	29.08	2.7	
Ardal, Arborg	1,122.66	151.93	13.5	13.60
Calvary, Seattle	1,093.50	526.53	48.1	
Lundar, Lundar	879.66			
St. Paul's, Minneota	782.46	186.25	23.8	213.76
St. Stephen's, St. James	777.60	528.08	67.9	59.81
Vikur, Mountain	772.74	115.26	14.9	
Herthubreith, Langruth	685.25	15.00	2.2	27.00
Peters, Svold	607.50	200.00	33.0	
Vidalin, Hensel	510.30			
Geysir, Geysir	471.42	20.00	2.4	
Breithvikur, Hnausa	383.94			
Mikleyar, Hecla	335.34			
Fjalla, Milton	335.34			
Immanuel, Baldur	306.18	130.00	42.5	36.80
Arnes, Arnes	306.18			
Glenboro, Glenboro	291.60	91.53	31.4	71.97
Vidir, Vidir	291.60	46.52	16.0	
Lincoln, Taunton	247.86			
Hallson, Hallson	218.70			
Gudbrands, Morden	218.70			
Betel, Silver Bay	218.70			
Vidines, Husavik	199.26			
Frikirkju, Bru	179.82			
Trinity, Pt. Roberts	136.08			
Concordia, Churchbridge	106.92			
Frelsis, Grund	87.48			
Gardar, Gardar		85.05		
	<u>\$21,641.58</u>	<u>\$2,875.20</u>	<u>13.3</u>	<u>\$518.19</u>

The foregoing sets out the Benevolence remittances received by the Treasurer up to May 17, 1959. At the Synod Convention in Selkirk, there will be reported the figures as they stand at the date of the Convention. Congregations are urged to forward all funds on hand so that the Convention report will show the best possible position.

O. BJORKLUND, Treasurer.

## *The Stewardship Secretary Speaks:*

My report to the Convention will show that our Synod made its greatest advance in its Benevolence offerings to the world-wide work of our Church during 1958. We have grown in Grace and given a greater expression of our gratitude to God for His blessings than ever before. We have attained objectives that some of us once said were impossible. They forgot one fact — all things are possible with the help of God.

Let us all begin our advance for Christ in 1959, begin with our record for 1958. Our continued growth in love and gratitude to God in 1959 may see our Synod attain its minimum fair share towards His causes in the world-wide work of our Church for the first time.

In a report I delivered to a prior Convention I stated that I did not believe that our Synodical record was because our people were less generous or less faithful. I believed that statement fully at that time, and I am even more convinced of it now. I said at that time, it was a matter of our people being told of the need and they would respond. This has happened in a great many of our Congregations.

However, there are still some of our Congregations whose members are not made as aware of the need

as others. In these cases the decision as to what will be sent to help the world-wide work of our Church is made by a few members sitting in meeting. This is not an expression of the Faith of its members. This results in sending what can be spared instead of a free will expression of love for and gratitude to God.

Let us all ask ourselves whether or not we have knowledge of the world-wide work; of our Church. If we have not, let us ask our Pastor and Church Councilmen to arrange some program so that we may have that knowledge.

Then, let us ask ourselves whether or not we are making a separate and special offering to this work. If we are, is it a true expression of our faith, love and gratitude. If we are not, let us remember that this is our answer to Christ's great commission to us to go out into all the world, preach, teach, baptise. We need only give as we are able, but we must respond to His love and many blessings to us.

R. B. VOPNI,  
Stewardship Secretary.

# *Sunrise Camp Schedule for 1959*

Camp Director  
Pastor Donald Olson

JUNE 27 and 28 — Sunday School Teachers' Rally.

JUNE 28 — First Lutheran Sunday School Picnic.

JULY 2-9 inclusive — Girls 12 years and over.

JULY 10-17 inclusive — Boys 12 years and over.

JULY 18-25 inclusive — Girls, 9, 10 and 11.

July 26 - Aug. 2 inclusive — Boys and Girls 7 and 8.

AUGUST 4-11 inclusive — Boys 9, 10 and 11.

AUGUST 2-9 inclusive — Senior Camp. Age 16 and over at Lake Brereton, Lutheran Camp.

TELEPHONE 316 - Ring 3, Gimli.

## **MEDICAL CERTIFICATE**

All applicants must present a certificate of health when registering.

Fees for all age groups — \$12.50 for session.

## **WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP**

Your BIBLE is first on the list.

A fair-sized note or exercise book and pencil.

Warm, suitable clothing. Be sure to include shoes for hiking.

Clothes suitable for Church Services on Sundays.

Don't bring too many clothes.

Your bed roll (sheets and pillow cases and a blanket or two), towel, soap, toothbrush, comb and bathing suit.

Any musical instrument you play you can carry — violin, guitar, accordion, mouth-organ, etc.

A camera if you have one and want a picture reminder of your stay in camp.

Add to this list a smiling face, a hearty appetite, an appreciative and co-operative attitude together with a desire to share your joys.

## **U. L. C. A. Representative to Convention**



**Mr. Chester A. Myrom**



# Agenda for Synod Convention

Seventy-fifth annual convention of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Selkirk, Manitoba.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 23rd

### 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.—

Registration in the Parish Hall

### 600 p.m.—

Supper in the homes.

### 7.30 p.m.—

Opening Communion Service

Sermon, Rev. Olafur Skulason, Secretary or Synod.

Liturgists and Celebrants:

Dr. V. J. Eylands, Vice-President and Rev. Edward A. Day, Host Pastor.

Formal Opening of Synod Convention.

Reception of Trinity Lutheran Church, Camper, Man., into Synod.

Appointment of Convention Committees.

### 9.00 p.m.—

Coffee and Social Period in Lutheran Hall.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th

### 9.00 a.m.—

Devotions: Pastor O. Donald Olsen, Glenboro, Man.

Business Session:

Report of Officers: President, Secretary, Treasurer.

Report of Credentials Committee.

Report of Finance Committee Chairman.

Report of Stewardship Secretary.

Report of Committees on Reference and Counsel.

### 12.00 - 1.30 p.m.—

Dinner and Recess in the Lutheran Hall.

### 1.30 p.m.—

Devotions — Pastor O. D. Olsen.

Roll Call

Unfinished Business.

### 2.00 p.m.—

Special Order: "Men's Work."

a. "What Is Being Done" — G. K. Halldorson.

b. "The Men's Program in the ULCA"—Mr. Chester A. Myrom.

c. Open Discussion.

### 3.00 p.m.—

Report of Lutheran Women's League. Discussion and Resolution.

### 3.30 p.m.—

Coffee Break.

## *Agenda for Synod Convention (Cont'd)*

### 4.00 p.m.—

Reports of Standing Committees and Auxiliaries:

Report of Betel Board.

Report from Borg Old People's Home.

Report of Parish Education Committee.

### 5.30 p.m.—

Free Time.

### 6.00 p.m.—

Supper in Lutheran Hall.

### 8.00 p.m.—

"The Church's Ministry of Word and Works"

a. Devotions — Pastor Wallace M. Bergman, Minneota, Minn.

b. "The Hereafter in Christian and Jewish Thought" —

Rev. Dr. V. J. Eylands, Synod Vice-President

c. "The Whole Program of the Whole Church" — Mr. Chester A. Myrom, Official Representative of the United Lutheran Church.

d. Musical Numbers arranged by the Host Church.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 25th

### 7.30 a.m.

Laymen's Breakfast. Presiding, R. B. Vopni, Area Chairman Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship.

Remarks — Chester Myrom: "What the LLM Means to the ULCA."

Greetings — N. O. Bardal and Oscar Bjorkland, LLM members.

### 9.00 a.m.—

Devotions — Pastor Jon Bjarman, Lundar.

Business Session, continued:

a. Report of Evangelism Committee.

b. Report of Viking Luther League.

c. Report of Social Problems, Manitoba Temperance Alliance.

d. Reports from Sameiningin and Parish Messenger.

e. Report on Lutheran World Action.

f. Report on Canadian Lutheran World Action.

### 11.30 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.—

"The Whole Program of the Whole Church," Mr Chester A. Myrom.

### 12.15 p.m.—

Dinner in the Lutheran Hall.

### 2.00 p.m.—

Devotions — Pastor Johann Fredriksson, Scandia, Alberta.

Business Session, continued:

a. Report of Convention Committee on Stewardship.

b. Report of Convention Committee on Finance.

c. Report of Convention Committee on Homes for the Aged.

## *Agenda for Synod Convention (Cont'd)*

- d. Report of Convention Committee on Reference and Counsel.
- e. Report of Convention Committee on Men's Work.

### **3.30 p.m.—**

Coffee break.

### **4.00 p.m.—**

Convention Committees meet.

### **4.30 p.m.—**

Business Session, continued:

- a. Report of Convention Committee on Evangelism.
- b. Report of Convention Committee on Youth Work.
- c. Report of Convention Committee on Publication.
- d. Report of Convention Committee on LWA and CLWA.

### **6.00 p.m.—**

Supper in the Lutheran Hall.

### **8.00 p.m.—**

"Youth Night, Full Time Service in the Church"

- a. Reception of new pastors into the Synod — the Reverends Jon Bjarman, Lundar and Ingthor Indridason, Langruth.
  - b. Devotions: Pastor Jack Larson, Viking Luther League Advisor, Arborg, Man.
  - c. "The Church's Call to Women": Sr. Laufey Olson, St. James.
  - d. "Call by Christ — to Serve": Pastor N B. Nelson, Seattle.
  - e. Musical Numbers arranged by the local Church.
  - f. Fellowship Hour in the Lutheran Hall.
- Greetings from the newly accepted pastors.

## **FRIDAY, JUNE 26th**

### **9.00 a.m.—**

Devotions: Pastor E. S. Brynjolfsson, Vancouver, B.C.

Business Session, continued:

- a. Election of Officers and Committees.
- b. Greetings from Dr. Earl Treusch, Executive Director of Canadian Lutheran Council.
- c. Unfinished Business.
- d. New Business.
- e. Official Closing of Synod Convention.

### **12.00 Noon—**

Dinner in the Lutheran Hall.

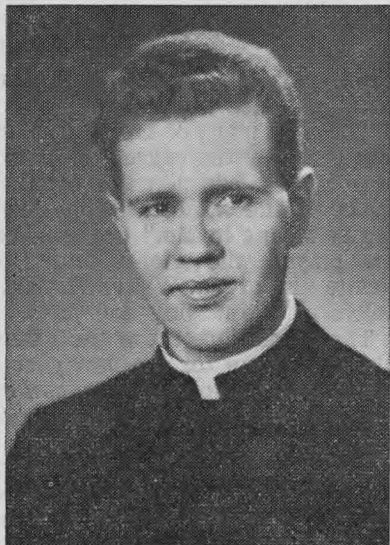
### **1.30 p.m.—**

Chartered bus to Betel Home, Gimli.

### **3.00 to 4.30 p.m.—**

Convention Visit to Betel Home.





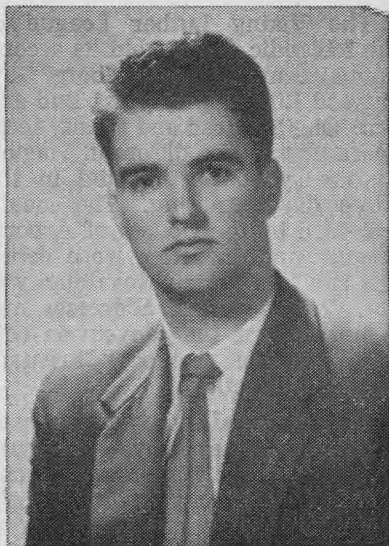
**Rev. Jon Bjarman**

### **New Pastor for Lundar**

Two new pastors will be received into synod membership at our Selkirk convention. Rev. Jon Bjarman came to Lundar Parish last November from Iceland with his wife Johanna and son Pall. Pastor Bjarman was installed officially in his parish in January by the President, Vice-President and Secretary of Synod. He has been doing fine work in Lundar Parish and is serving also Trinity Lutheran Church, Camper, Manitoba. This congregation has been a member of the Western Canada Synod of our U.L.C.A. but has now become part of the Lundar Parish and has applied for admission into our synod and will be received into the synod on the opening night of the convention. Pastor Bjarman conducts services also at Silver Bay and Vogar, Man.

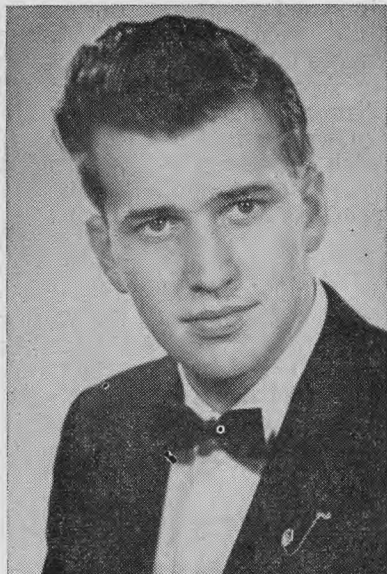
### **New Pastor for Langruth**

The Rev. Ingthor Indridason has accepted a call of our Langruth congregation to be its pastor and will begin his ministry there on July 1st, 1959. He will arrive from Iceland with his wife, Gudmunda, and his daughter Thora, on June 24th and will come directly to the Synod Convention. On Thursday evening of the convention he, along with Pastor Bjarman will be officially received into the membership of our Icelandic Synod. Mr. Indridason was graduated from the theological school of the University of Iceland this spring and will be ordained on June 22nd by the new Bishop of Iceland, the Rev. Sigurbjorn Einarsson. Mr. Indridason will be the first resident pastor in Langruth since 1929. The Board of American Missions of our U.L.C.A. is helping to support his ministry there.



**Rev. Ingthor Indridason**

## Viking Luther League Convention



**President Mr. Dennis Eyolfson**

The Viking Luther League of the Icelandic Synod held its second annual convention in Arborg, Gey-sir, and Riverton, May 1st, 2nd and 3rd. One hundred and twenty teenagers from ten different leagues in our synod participated in the three day gathering. The meals, provided by the women of Arborg, Hnausa and Riverton, were delicious and there was always plenty to eat. The business, addresses and discussions of the convention centered in the theme: "Christians Leagued Together."

Mr. Charles Lewis, youth associate of the Luther League of America, came all the way from Philadelphia to help our young people strengthen their program. Pastors Jon Bjarman, Eric Sigmar, Olafur Skulason, Jack Larson and Sister

Laufey Olson were also on hand to offer guidance and counsel.

The high point of the convention was probably the concert on Saturday night when several leaguers spoke on the subject: "What Jesus Christ Means to Me." Carlisle Wilson played the violin and Don Nevile, the organ. Walter Flanagan delivered the closing devotions.

The special project of the Viking Luther League for the new year is to provide 7½ tons of surplus food — through Lutheran World Action — to the starving in Hong Kong.

Last year's project was donating a portable altar to Betel. This altar will be dedicated June 26th, when the Synodical convention delegates will visit the Home.

Congratulations to the officers of the League for the following year. They are: President, Dennis Eyolfson; vice-president, Valdine Scrymgeour; treasurer, Brian Thorarinson; secretary, Loa Gunnlaugson; Evangelism secretary, David Gislason; Missions secretary, Vivian Palson, social action, Ardith Mead; recreation, Evelyn Einarson; Christian vocation, Stony Steinolfson. Pastor Advisor to the League is Rev. O. Jack Larson.

### SYNOD PRESIDENT INVITED TO ICELAND

Our Synod president, Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, was invited by the Church of Iceland to attend the Consecration Services for the newly elected Bishop of Iceland, the Most Rev. Sigurbjorn Einarsson. Pastor Sigmar will represent our Synod at this service in Reykjavik Cathedral on Sunday, June 21st. He will return to Canada on June 24th and will come directly to the convention.

## Dr. Runolfur Marteinson (Cont'd)

(Continued from Page 2)

pressure of the Master's life on ours." A kindled spirit guided by the unremitting pressure of Jesus Christ — that characterizes the life of Sera Runolfur Marteinsson.

The other picture that comes to my mind now is the picture of a humble man of prayer. Very few men that I have known could pray like Pastor Marteinsson. When he prayed he seemed to bring one in direct contact with Almighty God. He prayed so fervently, and yet so simply, so eloquently, yet so humbly, and always so trustingly—and effectively. When he prayed, he verily lifted one to the Throne of Grace. Never will I forget some of his prayers at the conventions of our synod. They make one literally feel God's blessing abiding over us. I'm told his last public prayer was at his grand-daughter's wedding about a year and a half ago. They said his free prayer was touchingly beautiful, and that it seemed to bring a special benediction of God upon the ceremony. When I saw him last in one of our city's hospitals — about a month ago — I held his hand and I had a prayer with him before I took my leave. When I said "amen," HE began to pray; he prayed for me and my ministry! That moment will remain as an unforgettable benediction upon my life.

Sixty years ago this servant of Jesus Christ was ordained in First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, into the Christian ministry, by our Icelandic Lutheran Synod, his uncle, Dr. Jon Bjarnason conducting the ordination ceremony. All these years he has been a faithful disciple of our Lord, and has served

Him tirelessly within the fields of our synod. At one time or the other during all these years he has visited and rendered pastoral service in almost every parish and preaching point of the entire synod. Growing up on his parents' farm at Hnausa from whence he had come as a 13 year old boy from Iceland, he came to Winnipeg a few years later, to attend Teachers' College, and lived with his uncle, the Rev. Dr. John Bjarnason. He taught school in New Iceland and North Dakota, but he felt the sure-hand of God leading him into the Christian ministry — Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran College in Minnesota, and later to the Lutheran Seminary in Chicago where he was graduated in one of the first classes of that institution, and considered to be one of its outstanding students. After his ordination he served as Interim Pastor for about a year at First Lutheran in the absence of Dr. Bjarnason. He then accepted the call to Gimli Parish, and for about ten years served the entire New Iceland field — Gimli, Arnes, Hnausa, Arborg, Riverton, and Hecla. In 1910 he came to Winnipeg to teach Icelandic at Wesley College. But half of his time and energy, even then, he gave to the work of the Synod. He visited pastor-less parishes every Sunday, coming back tired to his teaching duties on Monday mornings. He organized a Mission congregation of Synod, Skjaldborg, which he served for many years in west Winnipeg, along with his teaching duties. When our synod bravely launched into the academic venture of organizing Jon Bjarnason Academy in 1913, Sera Runolfur Mar-

## Dr. Runolfur Marteinson (Cont'd)

teinnsson was logical choice as its principal, and he served that post all the years of the life of that institution, until it closed in 1940. His was a difficult task. The school had to rely on the gifts of the people of our synod, and its purpose was not accepted in all quarters. Dr. Marteinsson worked ceaselessly to build interest and support for the the school, besides performing his arduous teaching duties, for the staff was never large. Let it never be forgotten that for 27 years this brave little institution carried on! It welcomed to its doors hundreds of the young people of our synod. The Christian influence that many of them received there has remained with them to this day, and has significantly blessed the lives of many of them. I have heard that testimony from people who now live in all parts of this continent.

During the summers of the school's existence, Dr. Marteinsson not only travelled to many of our synod's parishes to build support for the Academy; but week-end after week-end — both summer and winter — he went on behalf of our Synod to the far-flung and scattered reaches of our fields of responsibility to preach the Gospel and to minister to the needs of flocks without a shepherd. I am certain that no other pastor of synod travelled to as many different places of the synod as often as he did. Small groups of our people in places like Piney, Winnipegosis, Swan River, Duluth, Brandon, Markerville, Tantallon, Steep Rock, to name only a few, were blessed by the coming of this grand man of God, with his infectious enthusiasm for Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

I was talking to Pastor Sigurdur

Olafsson just recently, who was asked to take part in this service, but couldn't due to health; he asked that I bring his personal greeting to the family; and he said, "I met Dr. Marteinsson, fifty years ago, in 1909, in Seattle, Washington, where he came to preach to our people there. I felt that he was an apostolic type of man, terribly earnest. He was the first person I told I was contemplating becoming a Christian minister." Certainly this man touched and influenced many lives.

And then to put a crowning cap upon his vital ministry for Christ, he goes, past the age of 70 years to Vancouver, there in that bustling, huge city he organized a new congregation, which today is one of the more flourishing congregations of our synod. What a tribute to his zeal for the Lord of the Church!

It is to this grand old patriarch of our Synod—our Honorary President, that we pay tribute today. Tribute, yes, but even more we give our thanksgiving to God today who has given us this servant and his services to the church for so many years. And we stand in gratitude to his beloved and charming wife, who walked hand in hand with him all these years, and gave him not only her completely unselfish love, but her good cheer and guiding hand in many difficult moments.

I am sure that all of Heaven smiles today as it welcomes this pilgrim who has always been so vitally, vividly on fire with the spirit of Jesus Christ, and there will be a chorus of heavenly "Amens" as the Lord of the Church Triumphant welcomes our beloved with His words — "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter now into the joy of thy Lord." Amen.